June 22, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Ranking Member Lowey:

We urge you to bring forward appropriations bills without poison pill policy riders to adequately fund the federal government in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018.

Contrary to the May 2, 2017 statement of President Trump, we believe there is no such thing as a “good shutdown.” Bogging down the appropriations process with controversial policy debates would create another harmful political impasse and put Americans at unnecessary risk. Given the many challenges and urgent needs of our country, the House of Representatives must work cooperatively to complete the appropriations process. We need appropriations bills that provide adequate funding above sequestration levels for the agencies and programs that Americans rely on. Clean funding bills – free of poison pill riders – represent the best path forward as we fulfill our basic duty to keep the government running.

Cuts to vital programs and threats of government shutdown threaten Americans’ security and economic wellbeing. We urge you to act in line with the best traditions of the House and the best interests of our country by advancing responsible appropriations legislation free of contentious poison pill provisions.

Sincerely,

Jan Schakowsky
Ruben Gallego
G. K. Butterfield
Ron Kind
Maxine Waters
Steny H. Hoyer
Joseph Crowley
Donald W. Norcross
Wm. Lacy Clay
Elijah E. Cummings
Jackie Speier
Terri A. Sewell
Doris Matsui
Tom O'Halleran
James E. Clyburn
Linda T. Sánchez
Robin L. Kelly
Danny K. Davis
Peter A. DeFazio
Jared Huffman